

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
 - 2 a processor interface unit; and
 - 3 a cache to store information received from a processor coupled to the processor
 - 4 interface unit, the cache to store disposable information.

- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, the cache to further store non-disposable information.

- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a cache management unit to
2 determine whether a cache entry contains disposable information.

- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a bus interface unit to allow a
2 device coupled to the bus interface unit to access the cache.

- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, the cache management unit to allow the cache
2 entry to be overwritten if the device coupled to the bus interface unit reads the cache entry
3 and if the cache management logic determines that the cache entry contains disposable
4 information.

- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a system memory controller.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, the cache management unit to cause the cache
2 entry contents to be delivered to the system memory controller for delivery to a system
3 memory if the cache management unit determines that the cache entry does not contain
4 disposable information.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7, the processor interface unit to receive a
2 disposable information attribute indication from the processor when the processor
3 delivers disposable information to the processor interface unit.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 7, the cache management unit to determine
2 whether the cache entry contains disposable data by comparing the cache entry address
3 with a range of addresses that define a disposable information address space.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising at least one programmable
2 register to store addresses that define a disposable address space.

1 11. A system, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a system logic device coupled to the processor, the system logic device including
4 a processor interface unit, and
5 a cache to store information received from a processor coupled to the
6 processor interface unit, the cache to store disposable information.

1 12. The system of claim 11, the cache to further store non-disposable
2 information.

1 13. The system of claim 12, the system logic device further including a cache
2 management unit to determine whether a cache entry contains disposable information.

1 14. The system of claim 13, the system logic device further including a bus
2 interface unit.

1 15. The system of claim 14, further comprising a device coupled to the system
2 logic device bus interface unit.

1 16. The system of claim 15, the cache management unit to allow the cache
2 entry to be overwritten if the device coupled to the bus interface unit reads the cache entry
3 and if the cache management logic determines that the cache entry contains disposable
4 information.

1 17. The system of claim 16, the system logic device further including a system
2 memory controller.

1 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising a system memory coupled to
2 the system memory controller.

1 19. The system of claim 18, the cache management unit to cause the cache
2 entry contents to be delivered to the system memory controller for delivery to the system
3 memory if the cache management unit determines that the cache entry does not contain
4 disposable information.

1 20. The system of claim 19, the processor interface unit to receive a disposable
2 information attribute indication from the processor when the processor delivers
3 disposable information to the processor interface unit.

1 21. The system of claim 19, the cache management unit to determine whether
2 the cache entry contains disposable data by comparing the cache entry address with a
3 range of addresses that define a disposable information address space.

1 22. The system of claim 21, the system logic device further including at least
2 one programmable register to store addresses that define a disposable address space.

1 23. A method, comprising:
2 receiving a line of information from a processor;
3 storing the line of information in a cache;
4 determining whether the line of information is disposable; and
5 writing the line of information to a system memory if the information is not
6 disposable.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising allowing the line of
2 information to be overwritten without first writing the line of information to the system
3 memory if the line of information is disposable and if the line of information has been
4 read by a system device.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein determining whether the line of
2 information is disposable includes examining an attribute communicated along with the
3 line of information by the processor.

1 26. The method of claim 24, wherein determining whether the line of
2 information is disposable includes comparing the address of the line of information with a
3 range of addresses that defines a disposable information address space.